TED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Under-Secretary-General Aldo Ajello leaves for Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Pakistan to begin consultations on fourth round of inter-Tajik talks.

+ Common international dialogue needed to keep high standard of peace-keeping, Danish Defence Minister tells first United Nations regional peacekeeping training workshop.

+ United States Ambassador Madeleine Albright to consult with leaders of countries on Security Council, regarding sanctions against Iraq.

+ Commission on Population and Development told that large-scale, uncontrolled population movements are causing grave concern to developed and developing countries.

+ "Group of 77" expresses unconditional support for UNCTAD as sole entity in United Nations system dealing with development questions in comprehensive manner.

+ Committee on Rights of Palestinian People adopts 1995 programme of work.

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Under-Secretary-General Aldo Ajello left for Moscow today to begin consultations in connection with the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Ajello's mission will also take him to the Tajikistan capital of Dushanbe, and Islamabad, Pakistan.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Mr. Ajello to meet with senior Government officials of the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Pakistan and with leaders of the Tajik opposition. He will hold consultations in Moscow from 24 to 27 February, in Dushanbe from 28 February to 1 March and in Islamabad from 2 to 4 March.

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Common international dialogue was needed to maintain a high standard of peace-keeping and to take on the increasingly demanding tasks associated with it, the Danish Defence Minister, Hans Haekkerup, told the first United Nations regional peace-keeping training workshop. He said a doctrine would provide a coherent basis for peace-keeping and set out the principles and parameters of an operation. The international community could not afford to water down the standard of United Nations peace-keeping because of the overwhelming amount of work needed to be done by peace-keepers around the world.

Mr. Haekkerup urged the international community to continue recognizing the United Nations as the overall authority in peace-keeping, and to live up to the traditional principles of the Organization for peace-keeping: consent of parties; impartiality and minimum use of force. The five-day workshop, which will conclude tomorrow in Denmark, is being attended by experts from European countries and representatives of Argentina and India. It will assess national experiences, exchange information about peace-keeping training and formulate requirements for training guidelines and standardization.

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United States Ambassador Madeleine Albright left New York today to consult with leaders of countries on the Security Council, regarding sanctions against Iraq, according to a United States spokesman. Ambassador Albright will discuss the best means to ensure Iraq's compliance with its obligations under Council resolutions.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Karel Kovanda, told United Nations correspondents that the crucial period for re-evaluating the Security Council sanctions against Iraq was coming up. There might be some important changes this year; the question remained when. It was an important time to reevaluate the whole system of sanctions, he continued. Iraq was doing a lot to meet the requirements of the Security Council's resolutions and this might be the time when Iraq fulfilled all those requirements.

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Large-scale, uncontrolled population movements were causing grave concern to both developed and developing countries, the Commission on Population and Development was told Wednesday, as it considered the follow-up to the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development. The Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Robert Paiva, said a broad range of policies were needed to deal with the growing numbers of migrants, which last year reached 125 million.

Mr. Paiva said sustainable development in source countries was necessary for orderly migration. He recommended that industrial nations target development cooperation funds to migrant-generating regions to improve infrastructures and create employment opportunities. Permanent and temporary legal migration opportunities must be increased and the rights of individual migrants must be respected. Other speakers stressed that agreement on definitions of certain terms, such as reproductive health, was crucial in any

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future analytical work on population and development. They also agreed on the need to prioritize follow-up activities to the Cairo Conference.

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The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was best placed to contribute to the understanding of new and emerging issues, and to build consensus on fundamental development questions, the Chairman of the "Group of 77" developing countries said yesterday. Ambassador Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez (Colombia) told the press in Geneva that UNCTAD was the sole entity in the United Nations system that dealt with development questions in a comprehensive manner.

Ambassador Gonzalez said that UNCTAD's role was the most appropriate focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and inter-related issues in trade, finance, technology, investment services and sustainable development. There was a need for institutions to evolve and adapt themselves to meet the new challenges of trade liberalization and globalization, something UNCTAD had done in the past.

Recent calls for reforms in the United Nations due to institutional shortcomings should not be responded to with the creation of new institutions, the Ambassador said. Existing bodies should be built upon, and the international development dialogue should be kept alive, by deepening the examination of global policy issues and by a continuous search for consensus and cooperation among nations. UNCTAD was playing that vital role.

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Adopting its 1995 work programme yesterday, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, identified priority areas it will address, in light of political developments over the past year, and the status of the Middle East peace process.

The Committee will continue to promote support for the peace process and implementation of the agreements already reached. It will also mobilize and promote international assistance to the Palestinian people, by the United Nations and other donors, working to provide aid for immediate relief and for nation building.

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